

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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64  
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 SNM-02 DRC-01

RSC-01 /034 W  
----- 054158

R 091711Z JAN 74  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO DEA HQS WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6935  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00358

FOR DEA HQS WASHDC EOI CUSACK, PASS TO REGIONS 14 AND 2

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, CPRS, PFOR, U.K.  
SUBJECT: ERNEST FRANZ COMBS, R1-73-0271  
JAMES EARL GATER, FUGITIVE

REF: A. DEA 0131; B. STATE 3047; C. LONDON 0049  
D. STATE 251129

1. PLEASE NOTE THAT REFTELS B, C, AND D WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY SENT TO AMEMBASSY PARIS OR DEA HQS WASHDC. SUGGEST SECSTATE REPEAT REFTELS B AND D AND WE WILL REPEAT REFTEL C.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, BRITISH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF ITS CONTENTS. NO DIFFICULTIES ARE ANTICIPATED WITH REGARD TO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN U.S. (AIRWAY BILLS, HOTEL REGISTRATIONS, ETC.) FOR USE IN THEIR CASE. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR USE IN CASE THERE.

3. CONCERNING REFTELS B, C, AND D, GATER WAS ORIGINALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRESTED BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON NOVEMBER 14, 1973 AT

THE LONDON AIRPORT FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE. INVESTIGATION BY BRITISH AND U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD DETERMINED THAT GATER WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH COMBS AND OTHERS IN INTERNATIONAL HASHISH TRAFFICKING. HIS HEARING ON DECEMBER 28, 1973 HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY FORM OF SENTENCING AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL D, PARA. 5. THE HEARING ON THAT DATE WAS TO JOIN GATER WITH SIX OTHER DEFENDANTS BEING HELD ON CHARGES OF BEING CONCERNED WITH FRAUDULENT IMPORTATION OF HASHISH. HIS HEARING ON DECEMBER 28, 1973 WAS CONTINUED UNTIL JANUARY 9, 1974, AT WHICH TIME IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE HEARING WILL BE CONCLUDED AND THAT GATER WILL BE HELD FOR TRIAL ACTION WITH THE OTHER DEFENDANTS WITH WHOM HE WAS JOINED.

4. BRITISH CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ANTICIPATE THAT GATER'S TRIAL WILL COMMENCE SOMETIME IN THE LATTER PART OF JAN. THEREFORE, REFTELS B AND C ARE NOT ACCURATE WITH REGARD TO COMMENTS CONCERNING HEARING.

5. CASE IS BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY DEA/LONDON, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY OCCUR.

6. SUGGEST U.S. ATTORNEY MENTIONED IN REFTEL B BE MADE AWARE THAT GATER IS BEING TRIED, AND, AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN IT WILL ACTUALLY OCCUR. THE THREE-WEEK PERIOD ABOVE IS AN ESTIMATE FURNISHED BY BRITISH CUSTOMS; AND EVEN AFTER THE TRIAL BEGINS, IT IS EXPECTED TO LAST AT LEAST TEN DAYS. U.S. CASE WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL BRITISH CASE IS CONCLUDED.

SOHM

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, CPRS, PFOR, UK, (GATER, JAMES EAL)  
**To:** DEA HQS WASHDC  
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